

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application in view of the following remarks. For the Examiner's convenience and reference, Applicant's remarks are presented in substantially the same order in which the corresponding issues were raised in the Office Action.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-32 are pending. Claims 1 and 17 are currently amended to more clearly define pre-existing claim limitations. No claims are canceled. No claims are added. No new matter has been added.

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 9-10, 15-16, 25-26, and 31-32 stand objected to as depending from a rejected independent claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all intervening claim limitations.

Claims 1-2, 4, 17-18, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,078,402 to Fischer et al. (hereinafter "Fischer")

Claims 3, 5-8, 11-14, 19, 21-24, and 27-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fischer in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,623,697 to Bland et al. (hereinafter "Bland").

Response to Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Office Action rejected claims 1-2, 4, 17-18, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Fischer. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of these rejections because the cited reference fails to disclose all of the limitations of the claims.

CLAIMS 1-8, and 11-14

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Fischer. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentable over the cited reference because Fischer does not disclose all of the limitations of the claim. Claim 1, as amended, recites:

A method, comprising:

scanning an address space to locate an identification register of a structure whose value matches a predetermined value, wherein the value of the identification register identifies a starting address location of the structure within the address space;

determining the starting address location of the structure; and
accessing a register located within the structure by adding a predetermined offset to the starting address location of the structure.
(Emphasis added).

Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1, as amended, requires scanning an address space to locate an identification register of a structure whose value matches a predetermined value, and that the value of the identification register identifies a starting address of the structure within the address space.

Fischer is directed to a host (e.g., printer) that locates shareable resources on an accessory (e.g., I/O card) by using an offset mechanism on the accessory. Fischer, Abstract. Fischer discloses that firmware of the host (e.g., printer) is used to map the configuration address space of the peripheral (e.g., I/O card) to appear in the memory addressable area of the host, and the peripheral resources (e.g., Card Based Resources) to another area of the memory addressable area of the host. The peripheral resources are mapped to the memory of the host starting at the base address. See col. 4, lines 24-29. The mapping of the configuration address space and the resources of the peripheral allows the processor to virtually address them for reading, writing, and managing information to and from certain shared resources in the configuration address space and the resources of the peripheral. See col. 4, lines 29-36. Nothing in Fischer discloses that the configuration address space of the peripheral is scanned, and more specifically, that the address space is scanned to locate an identification register of a structure.

The Office action purports that scanning the address space is performed by “determining what PCI device exists and the particular configuration requirements for a new plug-in device by the configuration address space located in the configuration address register ... in the PCI device.” See Office action, mailed June 27, 2006, page 2. Although, the configuration address space of the peripheral device of Fisher does include configuration space registers, such as Base Address Register 0 and Interface Register, nothing in Fischer discloses *scanning the configuration address space to locate an*

identification register whose value matches a predetermined value, as required by claim 1.

For the reasons stated above, Fischer fails to disclose all of the limitations of claim 1. Given that the cited reference fails to disclose all of the limitations of the claim, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentable over the cited reference. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn.

Given that claims 2-8, and 11-14 depend from independent claim 1, which is patentable over the cited reference, Applicant respectfully submits that dependent claims 2-8, and 11-14 are also patentable over the cited reference. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the rejection of claims 2 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and the rejection of claims 3, 5-8, and 11-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

CLAIMS 17-24, and 27-30

Claim 17 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Fischer. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 17 is patentable over the cited reference for reasons similar to those presented above with respect to claim 1.

Given that claims 18-24 and 27-30 depend from independent claim 17, which is patentable over the cited reference, Applicant respectfully submits that dependent claims 18-24 and 27-30 are also patentable over the cited reference. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the rejection of claims 18 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and the rejection of claims 19, 21-24, and 27-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the rejections have been overcome. If the Examiner believes a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Michael Mallie at (408) 720-8300.

If there are any additional charges, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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